Department of State

TELEGRAM

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21 11 International Anti-Communist

ACTION ARA 16 Brigade

REC 27.

INFO EUR 15, SCS 04, SCA 02, MC 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07,

L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 25, USIA 12, FBI 01, SY 03,

ORM 03, RSR 01, SSO 00, NIC 01, /117 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY ___ DATE 1/24/84
046887
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS 1.3(a)(3)

P 242315Z OCT 68
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 887
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MERIDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 662

DEPT PASS CUBAN COORDINATION OFFICE, MIAMI.

SUBJECT: GOBH HOLDING THIRTEEN AMCITS SUSPECTED OF BEING ANTI-CASTRO GUERILLAS

REF: BELIZE 661

1. POLICE APPREHENDED ADDITIONAL EIGHT AMCITS ON KEY SIX MILES EAST BELIZE CITY NOON THURSDAY OCTOBER 24. GROUP WERE GUARDING CACHE OF FIELD EQUIPMENT INCLUDING AT LEAST NINE RIFLES, NINE PISTOLS AND AMMUNITION. ENTIRE THIRTEEN CHARGED TECHNICALLY WITH ILLEGAL ENTRY AND REMANDED FOR ONE WEEK.

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2. AIR SEARCH CONDUCTED BY AIR ATTACHE NEGATIVE.

NOT RECORDED
11 OCT 25 1968

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3. POLICE RECOGNIZED FRANK BENELLI RPT BENELLI (SEE REF TEL) AS FRANK FIORINI RPT FIORINI FROM NEWS ARTICLE, INCLUDING PICTURE, APPEARING MIAMI HEARLD JULY 4, 1961 WHICH WAS IN PERSONAL EFFECTS FIORINI. NEWS ARTICLE DESCRIBED FIORINI AS

Frank Furgis

NOV 4 1968

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LATIN-AMERICAN

105-172694

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OFFICIAL IN "ORGANIZATION EJERCITO SECRETO DE LA BRIGADA INTERNACIONAL ANTI-COMUNISTA ESTADOS UNIDOS." FIORINI ADMITTED TO IDENTIFICATION.)

4. CONSUL HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH FIORINI IN WHICH FOLLOWING STORY EMERGED. GROUP OF FIVE DEPARTED PROGRESO OCTOBER 19 AND WERE JOINED BY EIGHT ADDITIONAL MEN (ALL U.S. CITIZENS) WHO WERE CAMPED EAST OF PROGRESO. ONE HOUR OUT OF PROGRESO CAPTAIN OF BOAT ADVISED TRUE NATURE OF MISSION AND HIS COOPERATION REQUESTED. AT ONE POINT DURING TRIP IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAND-CUFF CAPTAIN. MISSION WAS TO RENDEZVOUS DAY BREAK OCTOBER 22 (HE WAS HAZY ON DATE) WITH 63 FOOTER EAST OF TURNEFFE ISLAND. FIORINI DID NOT WISH DISCLOSE PORT OF DEPARTURE OF

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OTHER BOAT BUT LEAD ME TO BELIEVE IT WAS FROM JAMAICA OR CAYMAN ISLANDS. POLICE COMMISSIONER BELIEVES MORE LOGICAL FOR SECOND BOAT TO ORIGINATE FROM HONDURAS OR OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN PORT. DUE GROUNDING NORTHSIDE TURNEFFE ISLAND "AMIGO" FAILED MAKE RENDEZVOUS. MISSION WAS TO LAND SOUTH COAST CUBA AND HOLE UP IN MOUNTAINS. FIORINI EXPLAINED DIFFICULTIES OF LANDING NORTH COAST BECAUSE EXTENSIVE U.S. PATROL. FIORINI SAID EARLIER SERVED WITH CASTRO AND BECAME ANTI-CASTRO IN 1959. CLAIMS TO BE WELL KNOWN IN MIAMI ANTI-CUBAN CIRCLES, PARTICIPATED IN BAY OF PIGS, AND LED NUMEROUS FORAYS FROM NORMAN KEY IN BAHAMAS. STATED LEGAL NAME FRANK STURGIS BUT COMMONLY KNOWN AS FIORINI IN MIAMI ANTI-CASTRO CIRCLES. OTHER RING LEADER IS JERRY BUCHANAN RPT BUCHANAN DESCRIBED AS CONNELLE IN REF TEL.

5. FIORINI REQUESTS FLORIDA ATTORNEY RAY SANDSTROM, FORT LAUDERDALE, BE ADVISED AS WELL AS SENATOR SMATHERS.

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6. FIORINI ADMITS TO SOME COERCION OF MEXICAN CAPTAIN BUT FEELS THAT DURING MOST OF THE VOYAGE MEXICAN CAPTAIN COOPERATED. FIORINI CONTENDS MEXICAN CAPTAIN HAD FOUR HOUR PERIOD FROM TIME

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OF ARRIVAL BELIZE UNTIL TIME OF ARREST TO REPORT TO PORT AUTHORITIES. POLICE COMMISSIONER STATES CAPTAIN'S WRITTEN AFFIDAVIT SAYS HE WAS "CLOSELY ESCORTED BY AMERICANS WHEN ASHORE" AND THAT HE BROKE STORY BY WHISPERING IN EAR OF BRITISH HONDURAS CUSTOMS OFFICER.

7. [redacted] FIORINI, OF COURSE, WANTS EARLIEST RETURN TO U.S. CONSUL RECOMMENDED FIORINI AND OTHERS PLAY STORY COMPLETELY STRAIGHT WITH GOBH AUTHORITIES IN ORDER SOLICIT THEIR COOPERATION.

8. REAL NAMES OTHER ELEVEN WILL BE PASSED WHEN KNOWN.

9. IN VIEW LARGE QUANTITY DOCUMENTS SEIZED IN THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS AND AT REQUEST POLICE COMMISSIONER, SUGGEST OFFICER MIAMI AREA FAMILIAR EXILE GROUPS BE SENT BELIZE ASAP.

TEPPER

NOTE: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE BY OC/T.